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Advocating Massachusetts History

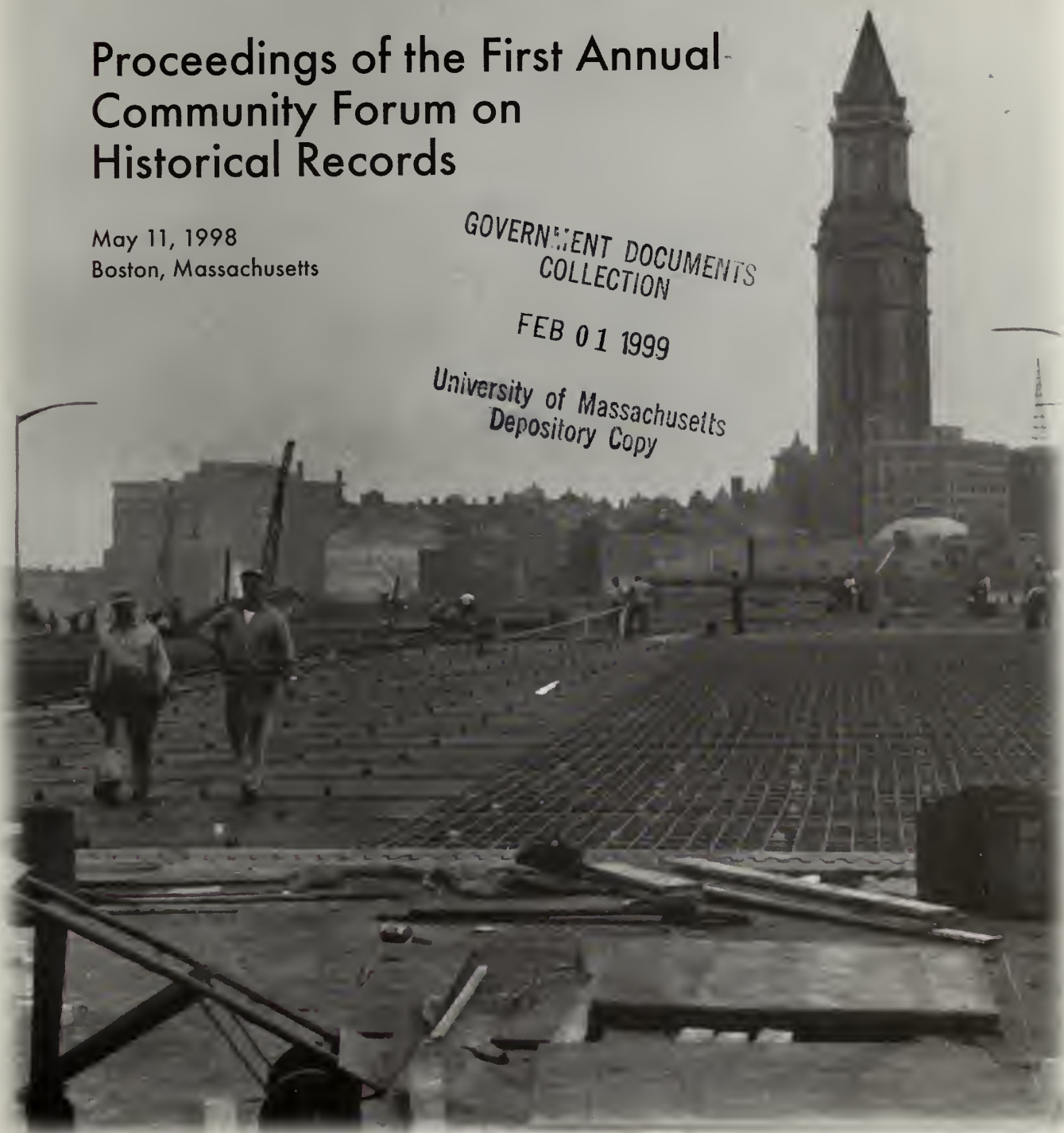
Proceedings of the First Annual
Community Forum on
Historical Records

May 11, 1998
Boston, Massachusetts

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Bringing Ideas to Life

This publication is sponsored in part by William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Massachusetts Archives, National Historical Publications and Records Commission, John F. Kennedy Library, University Products, the generous donations of forum co-sponsors, and by a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Published 1998 by the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board on behalf of the Forum Sponsors.

Editor's Note: The published proceedings do not represent a verbatim account of the 1998 Advocating Massachusetts History Forum. Following the forum, panelists were allowed to edit their remarks to allow a more fluid presentation of their views. Audience comments are presented in summarized form.

Cover photo: Construction of the Fitzgerald Expressway (Central Artery), with the Custom House Tower in the background. The photograph is one of hundreds of contract photos taken to document the construction project.

Transportation and Construction, series 1277x
John F. Fitzgerald Expressway, July 1, 1954
Courtesy of the Massachusetts Archives

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Proceedings of the First Annual
Community Forum on
Historical Records

May 11, 1998
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Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board
Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Sponsored by

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Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science
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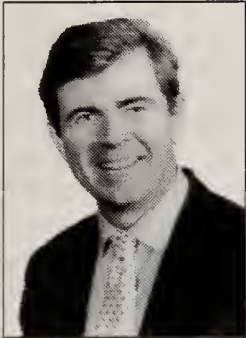
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Agenda

May 11, 1998
John F. Kennedy Library
Boston, Massachusetts

- 9:00-9:30 AM *Registration and coffee*
- 9:30-9:45 AM *Welcome*
Welcome and introduction of Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board members and Co-sponsors.
Speakers: Megan Desnoyers, John F. Kennedy Library
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
- 9:45-10:15 AM *Keynote Address: Whose History Is It?*
Keynote Speaker: Jill Lepore, History Department, Boston University
Author of THE NAME OF WAR: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity
- 10:15-10:45 AM *Challenges and Opportunities Facing the Historical Records Community* (includes slide show)
Speaker: Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, Simmons College,
Graduate School of Library and Information Science
What is the nature of the historical records community? What is the scope of Massachusetts repositories and records? What are their strengths? What challenges do they face?
- 10:45-11:05 AM *Break*
Participants are invited to learn more about co-sponsoring organizations by visiting their display tables during the break.
- 11:05-12:05 PM *Collaborating in a Diverse Community*
Panel Facilitator: William Fowler, Massachusetts Historical Society
Panel Members:
Cindy Robinson, Bay State Historical League
Linda Seidman, Hampshire County Historical Records Advisory Board
Ellen Rothman, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities
- 12:05-12:30 PM *Where Do We Go From Here?*
Panel Facilitator: William Fowler, Massachusetts Historical Society
Consensus-building and wrap-up with forum participants. Discussion includes responses to the question: What concrete steps can we take to collaborate to build support for the historical records community?

Preface



More than 350 individuals and twenty-five organizations from across Massachusetts, representing various professions and interests, met at the John F. Kennedy Library on May 11, 1998 to show their support for historical records in Massachusetts. *Advocating Massachusetts History: The First Annual Community Forum on Historical Records* was the first public acknowledgement that records creators, holders, and users of all types must come together to help address the historical records issues faced by Massachusetts citizens.

The forum is a first step towards a collaborative program of advocacy and outreach that will increase the use of records and support for their collection and care in Massachusetts. Without the resources needed to collect, care for and provide access to historical records, repositories cannot preserve a representative record; we will achieve only a partial vision of where we have been, why we have arrived at the present, and what our future holds.

The forum was a success in every sense. The actual forum attendance doubled original estimates made by the planning committee. Co-sponsors generously and enthusiastically provided the resources and publicity to reach a broad audience.

- Participants rated the overall program of the Forum a success. Of the 128 evaluations returned, 123 ranked the program as good or excellent.
- The support for records is broad and inclusive. Roughly 60% of forum attendees care for or manage records in some capacity, including librarians, archivists, museum curators, historical society members, and social/cultural organizations, while 40% of the audience create or use records, including educators, scholars, researchers, business owners and government officials.
- All geographical regions of Massachusetts were represented in sizeable numbers, including Cape Cod and the Islands, Central, Western, and Eastern Massachusetts.

The Forum began building the networks needed to advance our goals. Together we examined the usefulness and relevance of historical records, the nature of the historical records community, its mission, and the records it holds, the challenges faced by the community, and opportunities for advocacy, outreach, and constituency-building.

It is a beginning. The Forum is over; the inspiring words of its speakers now reside only within the covers of this publication. But the need for preservation of and access to historical records continues, and so must our determination and commitment to advocate for them. As you read these pages, please remember that the key to our success is *you*.

William Francis Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth

The Forum is a result of a strategic planning process initiated by the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board, and sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission. The purpose of the planning project is to identify the obstacles and opportunities the historical records community faces and plan for collaborative activities to advance the community as a whole. As a part of the planning process, the Board is coordinating demonstration projects that will initiate collaborative networks that will have long term impact. The elements of the strategic plan, now in draft form on the Board's web site, and the demonstration projects, including this Forum, were formulated as a result of open meetings and focus groups held across the state in 1997. More than 200 records creators, holders, and users attended; many more visited the web site, reviewed drafts, and offered comments.

Welcome

Megan Desnoyers, John F. Kennedy Library

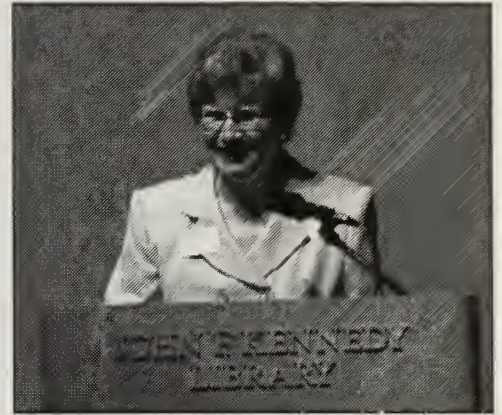
I'd like to welcome you to the Kennedy library. The sun does shine occasionally, and that's why these screens are down. But as someone commented, "You can't tell the screens are down." We apologize for the weather. We're delighted that you are here. We're amazed.

I'd like to give special thanks to our co-sponsors, who made today's event possible. University Products, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, and all the organizations you see represented at the display tables and mentioned in your registration packet. They all joined together to support this, the first annual forum on historical records. It's a very impressive group. I think it's the first time that we've all gotten together like this, and I do encourage you to visit the booths, to read the packet, and see what's available.

As John Kennedy said, "Too often we hold fast to the clichés of our forebears. We subject all facts to a prefabricated set of interpretations. We en-

joy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought. Mythology distracts us everywhere. For the great enemy of the truth is very often not the lie - deliberate, contrived, and dishonest - but the myth - persistent, persuasive, and unrealistic."

That's why we're together. We are trying to make the documentary record of Massachusetts fuller, more complete, and we are trying to debunk the myths. We couldn't have a better speaker for that, and we couldn't have a better group for trying to represent all the people in the Commonwealth who deal with records - users, keepers, collectors, and the undocumented constituencies.



Megan Desnoyers

Opening Remarks

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

Thank you, Megan, for that wonderful welcome. I am delighted to be here today with members of the historical records community, the people who create, care for, and use historical records. We are a diverse group—museum curators, cultural resource managers, preservationists, genealogists, archivists, teachers, librarians, avocational historians and scholars, government officials, and more—but we have a common purpose.

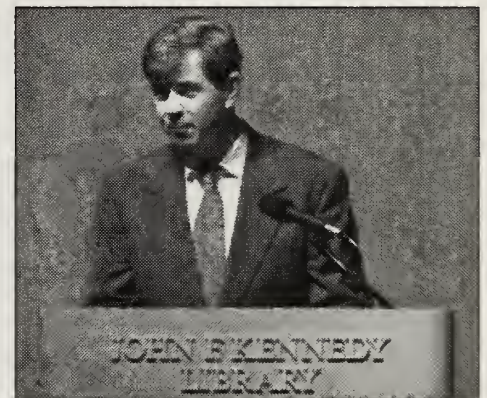
We have accomplished much: Massachusetts has more historical records, and more historical records repositories, than nearly every other state. But despite our best efforts and the dedication of people like you, we have failed to achieve all our historical records goals. Too many records are destroyed before they can be acquired and preserved in libraries, archives, and museums. Too many repositories do not have the resources they need to ensure access to the records they do hold. And most disturbing, we have not succeeded in articulating the value and usefulness of historical records in improving the quality of all our lives in Massachusetts.

My concern about these issues brings me here this morning to explore with you how we can collabo-

rate to win support for this critical resource.

But I know that no single effort can overcome all the obstacles we face. That is why I have supported the statewide Strategic Planning Project of the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board. The Board has been working for more than a year, meeting with people like you in many sites across Massachusetts, learning about the challenges and opportunities you face. The Board has established a website as a central information source for the historical records community. With your help, the Board has sponsored several working groups and activities that are developing tools and products to support your work. This forum is one of those activities.

I have encouraged the Board to apply for funding from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to establish a two-year regrant program. Such a program would disburse



William Francis Galvin,
Secretary of the
Commonwealth

grant funds to smaller repositories that need seed money to develop or improve their historical records programs. It would fund collaborative documentation projects in Massachusetts communities, and further the efforts of professional associations and others to raise public awareness and improve the skills of those who care for records. To support a re-grant program, I will initiate an outreach program in the Archives Division staffed by a field archivist.

The field archivist will continue the facilitative work begun during the Board's Planning Project, organize collaborative efforts, support interdisciplinary working groups, and assist you in structuring competitive, fundable projects that will win state and federal grant dollars.

I will continue to seek permanent funding for historical records projects, but to do that successfully, I must have the support of your voices. You must become active advocates for historical records in your organizations, at town meetings, and in the legislatures. Together, we can ensure a future for our history.

I would like to introduce the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board. These are volunteers from the historical records community

who have invested many, many hours on your behalf. I will ask Board members to stand; please hold your applause until all are standing.

David A. Cobb, Harvard Map Collection

Megan F. Denoyers, John F. Kennedy Library

William Fowler, Massachusetts Historical Society

Louis Gutierrez, Information Technology Division, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Mary Frances O'Brien, Boston Public Library

Thomas H. O'Connor, Boston College

Helen W. Samuels, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

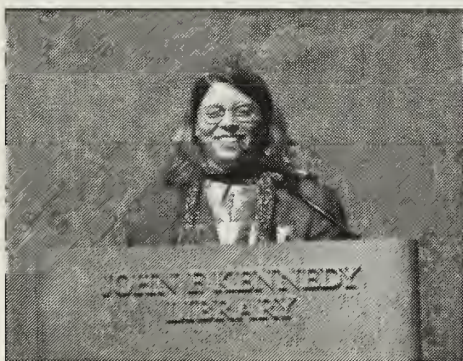
Nancy Carlson Schrock, Harvard College Library

Megan Sniffin-Marino, Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science

I would also like to recognize the Archivist of the Commonwealth, John D. Warner, Jr., and State Historical Records Coordinator, Kathryn Hammond Baker. Last and far from least, I would like to introduce Angela Reddin, the Board's Project Archivist.

Keynote Address: Whose History Is It?

Dr. Jill Lepore, Boston University



Dr. Jill Lepore

Preparing this talk was an interesting and unique challenge for me. I received by e-mail the title of my talk, "Whose History Is It?" Although I'm sure I could have changed the title if I'd liked to, I've never been given the title and then tried to think about a talk that would fit the title. It was a wonderful challenge. My mother is an elementary

school art teacher, and it reminded me of elementary school. The teacher hands out art paper, then comes around to each pupil's desk with a big, fat, thick magic marker and draws a squiggle on the paper, and you have to take crayons and fill in the squiggle to make it something recognizable. Trying to write a talk in reply to the title reminded me of that effort. So, see if you think I'm contorting the squiggle of my title to fit the talk.

In 1908, surgeon and explorer Frederick Cook claimed to have reached the North Pole, a year

before Robert Peary did. And he had proof, photographs taken by his two Inuit guides. But the world was skeptical. Cook's achievement seemed nothing short of miraculous, and the evidence slippery at best. As Mark Twain wise-cracked, "the golfer, when he puts in a record round, has to have his card signed, and...there is nobody to sign Dr. Cook's card; there are two Eskimos to vouch for his feat, to be sure, but they were his caddies, and at golf their evidence would not be accepted." To Twain, Cook's clumsy claim illustrated the fine line between facts and miracles: "If Dr. Cook's feat is put forward as Fact, the evidence of his two caddies is inadequate; if it is put forward as Miracle, one caddy is aplenty."

Whose history is it? Robert Peary's apparently. When the U.S. Congress conducted an inquiry into the two explorers' competing claims of "discovering" the North pole, Cook's Inuit guides informed investigators that the photographs had been taken miles short of ninety degrees north. Cook was labeled a fraud; Peary was promoted to Read Admiral of the U.S. Navy. Peary died a hero in 1920; Cook went to jail in 1923, convicted

of involvement in a slimy oil-well swindle. Peary will always be the intrepid Admiral but, though the good doctor was pardoned of the oil-well fiasco a few months before his death in 1940, he will always be crooked Cook.

Whose history is it? History is told by those with the best evidence. History is told by people who have left diaries, letters, stamp collections, journals, wills, wedding rings, house plans, court records, manifestos, newspapers, cotton quilts, woodcuts, inscriptions on tea cups. All of these records matter, because without them, history is only fiction. Frederick Cook knew this, of course. That's why he posed, bundled in his furry parka, for a frigid photograph, miles short of his goal, on a block of ice he thought might look just enough like the North Pole to convince a fraud-weary world. Because he knew no one would take his word for it. As it turned out, no one would take his guides' word for it either. And, to Cook's undying dismay, the grainy photographs he presented to Congress were only slightly more credible than the cut-and-paste images on the covers of Rupert Murdoch's tabloid magazines: Princess Diana marrying Elvis, Bigfoot in a dress, Boris Yeltsin playing poker with E.T.

Evidence matters. And history belongs to those with the most, and best of it.

But what's curious about this story, and about Twain's golf metaphor, is that history, in this version of things, does not belong to the caddies of the world. As Twain tells it, the Inuits who guided both Cook and Peary are part of the evidence, not part of the event. Their Arctic adventures are irrelevant because they are not actors; they are acted upon. History can be like that. Sometimes the evidence seems to be all on one side.

Take, for instance, the original seal of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Here, the Puritans, intrepid explorers themselves, tell the story of their "discovery," not of the North Pole, but of a "New England." And they tell it, not with a photograph, but with a picture, an engraving. But we ought to understand that this engraving is just as fanciful as Frederick Cook's photograph of himself, sporting a furry parka, braving the Arctic snow.

The original seventeenth-century Massachusetts Bay Colony seal (the model, of course, for our state flag) tells a fascinating story, a story of a place named by its inhabitants "Mattachusetts," and considered, by newcomers, to be part of a "Nova Anglia." In that place, these newcomers claim to have found naked men who greet them with open arms, peaceably, with weapons exposed and arrows facing down. These naked men are begging

for help. "Come Over and Help Us," this "savage" pleads, "share with us the good news of your savior, who will be our Lord. We have here an empty land, an Eden, yours for the taking."

The vision of pagan natives peaceably and eagerly awaiting the good news of the gospel is, of course, the Puritans' fantasy, their fondest wish. When John Winthrop's ship, *Arabella* sailed across the Atlantic in 1630, the Puritans on board hoped to found a "city on a hill," a beacon of Christian truth and piety, for all the world to see. Part of their piety would derive from their devoted reading of the Bible, their daily prayerfulness, and the ecclesiastical ordering of their lives. And part of their piety would derive from the swiftness and gentleness with which they would convert the native "heathen" peoples to Christianity, thereby saving the Indians' souls, and enlarging the realm of Christ on earth. But this part of the Puritans' piety, alas, was never realized. The colony seal was a fantasy, a vision of a miracle, and little more.

Once they arrived, few colonists found the time to preach to the Indians, who seemed to be dying off anyway, plagued by smallpox and other European diseases for which we now know they had no natural immunity. As much as ninety percent of the native population may have died in the first few decades of English settlement. In the 1650s and 1660s John Eliot, minister of Roxbury, managed to convert several hundred Indians to Christianity, many on their deathbeds, and established praying Indian towns, like Natick, to house them. But most colonists were suspicious, believing that Eliot's alleged converts were simply looking for food and shelter in a world that to them had become a chaos of disease and devastation. Still, most of the Indians who survived the epidemics were not particularly interested in Christianity. When Eliot tried to preach to Philip, the influential Wampanoag sachem and son of Massasoit, Philip ripped a button off of Eliot's coat, held it up before his eyes and told Eliot that he cared for his gospel just as much as he cared for that button.



1629 Seal of the
Massachusetts Bay Colony.
Courtesy of the
Massachusetts Archives.

"Come Over and Help Us," indeed. Thus, the Massachusetts Bay Colony seal in its original seventeenth century version is miracle, and not fact. By Mark Twain's wry reckoning, "one caddy is aplenty." One caddy, this caddy, is all the proof that we need of the miracle of the Puritan's mission. To unravel the fact, to unravel the true story of the early history of colonists and Indians in Massachusetts we need a lot more caddies than just this one. And we need a heck of a lot more evidence than just the wonderful Massachusetts Bay Colony seal that we have here, however valuable and important it is. We need more.

History does belong to those with the most and the best evidence. But the job of archivists, museum curators, preservationists, teachers, and historians is to make sure there's enough evidence to go around, and evidence for everyone to see. Evidence about great golfers, whom we can admire and evidence also about lowly caddies whom the humbler of us can relate to. And that's really, for me, the wonder of recent history writing.

"Whose history is it?" History has long belonged to the finest golfers to the men who have had bold-est aspirations, and who have realized their goals. For millennia, historians have celebrated great

men, from Alexander the Great to Admiral Peary, and great events, from the Peloponnesian War to the Puritan migration. Yet, in the last century, and particularly, since the 1960s, American historians have become more interested in the caddies of the world: ordinary men, and women, too. New kinds of documents, from probate records to nursery

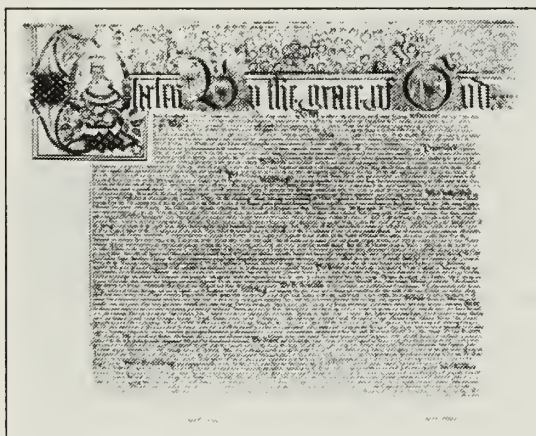
rhyme books, have commanded attention. And new methods of analysis, like demography and social history and material culture studies, have shed new light on the lives of people who left few written records. Meanwhile, a whole generation of historians interest in writing history "from the bottom up" have risen, come of age, and come of retirement age. Libraries are now filled with American history books about immigrant Irish workers, rural farm children, colonial wives, domestic servants, slaves in the antebellum south, Chinese-American railroad workers, Mexican-American political activists. In Twain's estimations, surely caddies all. But to us, invaluable. No longer witnesses to the world's great events,

ordinary men and women, however humble their background, now have a place, and a voice, in our history books, even in elementary school textbooks, as actors, as shapers of their own destinies, and the people "who build America."

But it's only because so many different kinds of records have been saved and preserved that we can continue to broaden our scope, to learn more about the past.

So what's the caddy's perspective on the early history of the Puritan mission in Massachusetts? Unfortunately, the colony seal, while utterly fascinating, doesn't tell us very much at all about the Algonquian version of events. We have here only words put in an Indian's mouth. Our task, then, is to conduct the equivalent of the U.S. Congress' fastidious investigation of the competing claims of Frederick Cook and Robert Peary (fastidious, but perhaps not as exhaustive as investigations conducted by Kenneth Starr). And how do we conduct our investigation? Not by calling in witnesses, who no longer exist (and who, in Starr's estimation, cannot be relied upon, unless questioned on twelve different occasions). We must, instead, sift through the records, the wonderful documents rescued from decay and destruction, in archives, in historical societies, at historic houses, in attics, cellars, museums, in dusty libraries. And there we will find, frankly, that the Puritan version of the story of the early history of Massachusetts, as told in the colony seal, does not hold up terribly well.

What the documents will tell us is that far from eagerly awaiting Christianity, many Algonquians in this "New England" were willing to risk everything to rid their home of its newcomers, and particularly, to destroy the newcomers' religion. In 1675 and 1676, Wampanoags, Narragansetts, Nipmucks, Pocumtucks, and Abenakis all began attacking English towns in a war that would prove to be, in proportion to population, the most fatal war in American history. That war, named King Philip's War after Philip, who led the initial uprising, nearly destroyed the Massachusetts Bay colony, wiping out every English settlement west of Concord. And what did the Indians most love to attack? The Puritans' churches, their Bibles, their faith in God. Indians in King Philip's War burned and shredded Bibles and, when killing a man in Providence, ripped him open and stuffed his Bible in his belly. They destroyed churches, and then asked weeping ministers, "What will you do for a house to pray in now we have burnt your Meeting-house?" In Brookfield, Indians tried to get terrified townspeople to abandon the safety of a garrison house by vandalizing the



1629 Charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Archives.

church next door, and making fun of Puritan psalm-singing, wailing riotously, and calling out to the besieged colonists, "Come and pray, & sing Psalmes." They mocked the colonists' God. In an attack on Sudbury, one Nipmuck tormented his English victim, taunting him "Come Lord Jesus, save this poor Englishman if thou canst, whom I am now about to Kill." When the Nipmucks returned from a fight they celebrated by scoffing that "They had done [their victims] a good turn to send them to heaven so soon." As one colonist aptly put it, "Our enemies proudly exult over us and Blaspheme the name of our Blessed God; Saying, Where is your O God?"

New England's English settlers won King Philip's War, and never again faced such a horrifying Indian war on their soil. But what of the mission, enshrined on the colony seal, to convert the Indians to Christianity? During the war, the Massachusetts Council ordered the imprisonment of all of Eliot's Christianized Indians, fearing that they would otherwise join the enemy, and deciding, in effect, that no Indian could ever be so fully Christian as to be loyal to the English. For the duration of the fighting, these several hundred Christian Indians were confined on Deer Island in Boston Harbor, where over half died of exposure or starvation. Others were sold into slavery and shipped to the West Indies. By the war's end, Massachusetts colonists had clearly abandoned whatever hope they once held for converting the natives to Christianity.

But the Bay Colony did not see fit to alter its seal, which continued to miraculously depict a peaceful, welcoming Indian, desperate for the light of the gospel, mouthing the words, "Come Over and Help Us." One caddy is aplenty.

Had the seal been altered, updated to tell the Algonquian version of the story of King Philip's war, we might see that Indian mouthing not, "Come Over and Help Us," begging for the Puritans to bring him Christ, but instead at once mocking and rebuking them, asking "Where is Your O God?" But that, too, would only be a half truth.

"Come Over and Help Us" on the one hand, and "Where is Your O God?" on the other, tell two versions of the same story. Two incomplete versions. But by telling them both, we learn the most. More and more, historians and teachers and archivists and museum curators are trying to tell such many-sided stories, telling all sides, to make the story more complete. And this makes many people uncomfortable. The Enola Gay exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of American History in 1995 was intended to both celebrate the Allied victory in World War II and to mourn the Japa-

nese loss of life in Hiroshima. Two sides of the same story. But some veterans groups, believing telling the tragic story undercut the heroic one, forced the cancellation of the exhibit. More recently, legislators have passionately attacked the proposed new National History standards for its emphasis on both the inspirational story of America as the birthplace of modern democracy, and the horrifying tale of early America's entirely unmodern and undemocratic dependence on enslaved Africans. Two sides of the same story.

These conflicts over how Americans remember their past, these "history wars," are in large part a consequence of historians' newfound interest in ordinary people, and not just in studying ordinary people, but also in giving them all sides of the story and letting them reconcile it. Ordinary men and women are now not only the subjects of history, they are historians, too. In 1931, when Carl Becker delivered his presidential address to the American Historical Association, he titled it, "Everyman His Own Historian." To Becker, history consists simple of "the memory of things said and done." Thus anyone who remembers anything said and done is an historian. Doctoral degrees be damned. That you remember you promised your daughter you'd take her to a karate lesson tomorrow makes you an historian. That you keep a record of that memory archived in your four-dollars-and-ninety-five-cents faux leather datebook makes you an historian (or perhaps, as some in this audience would have it, an archivist). What professional historians may do that is different (and whether or not this warrants a Ph.D. is debatable) is to put those memories in the context of broader stories, in this case, perhaps, the story of girls' sports in late twentieth-century America. But, as far as Becker is concerned, a professional historian's history of girls' sports must reach out to a wider public, including, especially, the very people who send their daughters to karate classes. As Becker put it, "The history that lies inert in unread books does no work in the world."

Whose history is it? History belongs to everyone, from presidents to paupers. History ought to tell the story of all of us, and let all of us do part of the telling. And there's where the two-sidedness inevitably comes in. If we are all part of history, and if we are all historians, there are

"History is told by people who have left diaries, letters, stamp collections, journals, wills, wedding rings, house plans, court records, manifestos, newspapers, cotton quilts, woodcuts, inscriptions on tea cups. All of these records matter, because without them, history is only fiction."

— Dr. Jill Lepore

bound to be more than a few areas of disagreement. What we make of the founding of Massachusetts Bay Colony and the Puritan mission, as memorialized in the colony seal, is just one of them. But it's not an idle dispute. Last Thanksgiving, when the town of Plymouth held its annual "Pilgrim's Progress" parade, protesters, considering Thanksgiving a Native American day of mourning and urging Americans to remember the war waged by Massasoit's son, Philip, found themselves in a battle with the Plymouth police. When the police arrested (and allegedly battered) some of the protesters, the incident brought national media attention to yet another of our "history wars." At stake in Plymouth is the very question that titles this talk, "Whose history is it?" Does the history of Plymouth belong to the people who want to celebrate the Pilgrims' fortitude in establishing a new society in this new world? Or does the history of Plymouth belong to the people who want to mourn the devastation of the Wampanoag people who lived in Plymouth long before it was "Plymouth"?

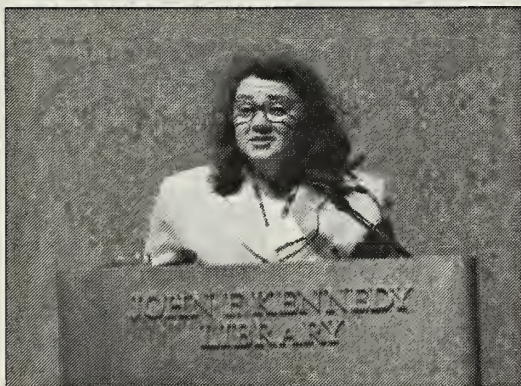
Because these questions seem, in a sense, unanswerable, Americans can be ornery about history, bringing to it the kind of skepticism that plagues

"new math" and "invented spelling" and most lose-weight-quick schemes. History, told from so many different perspectives, and told by so many different people, seems to be up for grabs. Meaningless. Or, as Henry Ford once put it, "History is more or less bunk." But history is not bunk. History is evidence. History is the diaries, letters, stamp collections, journals, wills, wedding rings, house plans, court records, manifestos, newspapers, cotton quilts, woodcuts, inscriptions on tea cups, those things we collect and house, and preserve, and consult and ponder and wonder at. We will always, thank goodness, come up with different interpretations of these many different kinds of records, and some explanations will be cleverer and more plausible than others. But, in the end, history will always come down to the evidence, which is why we need to make sure to collect documents that tell different stories, and to share those documents with all of the different people who'd like to learn about the past, and let them make up their own minds. History is not up for grabs. History is under investigation.

Challenges and Opportunities Facing the Historical Records Community

(original speech included a slide presentation)

Megan Sniffin-Marinoff, Simmons College
Graduate School of Library and Information Science



Megan Sniffin-Marinoff

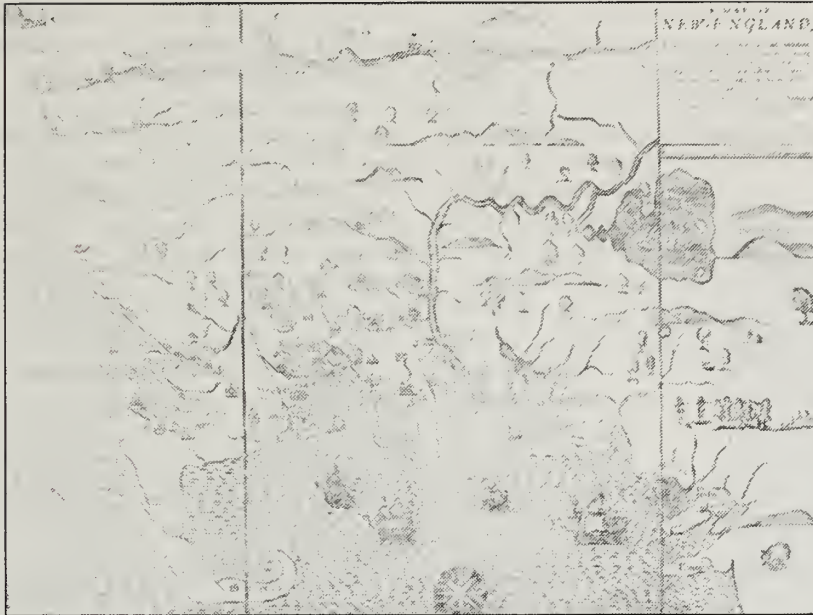
- Boston terriers were first bred in Boston in 1870.
- Pencils were first manufactured in Concord, Massachusetts.
- Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone here in 1876.

I learned all this about Massachusetts history last week from reading the text on the side of a mug while standing in line at Starbucks—waiting for a skim latte with extra foam.

The fact that Massachusetts history is important to the nation comes as no surprise to anyone in this room. That it occurred to the marketing people at the Seattle-based Starbucks Corporation is probably no surprise, as well. But the people in Seattle (who we all know must be envious of the historic record of our Commonwealth) would probably be astonished at the state of affairs we find ourselves here to discuss.

The Massachusetts historical records community is faced with enormous challenges—challenges those who preceded us never could have imagined. My task is to help put the discussion that follows later this morning into a broader perspective by describing briefly the nature and scope of the historical records community in Massachusetts and the issues faced by us all today.

- The planet Pluto was discovered in part by a Bostonian.
- The first modern sewing machine was invented in Massachusetts in the 1840s.
- One member of the Boston Celtics was named Most Valuable Player of the National Basketball Association five times.



Seventeenth century map of New England.
Courtesy of the
Massachusetts Historical
Society, Boston.

It is important to note from the start that those concerned with the historical record in Massachusetts are part of a larger community interested in the history of the state. While our focus is on documents reflecting our history—such as this seventeenth-century map attributed to John Foster—we are very much in the company of others who care, for example, about three-dimensional objects, like the Indian archer weathervane attributed to Shem Drowne. These interests range from eighteenth-century tea to twentieth-century medals or from elaborately-carved horns with political messages to the fine handiwork of anonymous women who worked at home. We are part of the world of historic preservation and those who help restore long-neglected buildings such as Faneuil Hall, bringing new life to our communities. We work side-by-side both with those who collect and display works of art as well as those who collect and catalog published materials in libraries. Our community includes those who are docents at historical museums and those who collect words on tape through oral history. Our main interest, however, is that of historical records—until recently, documents exclusively on paper, important both for their written and visual content, but increasingly, in formats that seem to change yearly, if not sooner.

The appreciation for reliable documentation and the collection of historical records is certainly nothing new to Massachusetts. Due to the early interest of people such as Jeremy Belknap, a prime mover in the establishment of the Massachusetts

Historical Society, collection efforts have been steady since the eighteenth-century. We should be proud that our predecessors had the foresight to maintain records such as the fifty-year diary of Justice Samuel Sewall; loving correspondence between Abigail and John Adams; letters from the 1920s between John Galsworthy and Ellery Sedgwick regarding the Sacco and Vanzetti case; and official correspondence such as that of our public representatives—including a few presidents. All of these materials, and many like them, form the basis of a strong, written record in many repositories. The visual record, too, has not been neglected from early renderings of objects and places, to engravings and photographs of many of our citizens.

We are grateful to those before us who thought to collect such materials and to form institutions or collections to house, organize, and make available these materials to the public. There are hundreds of collections or institutions caring for historical records in the Commonwealth. However, unlike many states with a few centralized repositories and a small number of record collectors and keepers, we are highly decentralized, widespread, and do not meet or talk to each other often enough about our needs and concerns. We have been the recipients of many grant funds over the years, from organizations such as the National Historical Publications and Records Commission and the National Endowment for the Humanities. In many ways we have been fortunate. But, new funding sources are sorely needed.

With all this plenty has come problems. The most obvious of these is the physical preservation of this documentation. We have lost much material over the years, some of this loss from natural disasters such as fire and flooding. While every institution holding historical materials should

have disaster plans in place, many, many do not. We have also lost part of our historical record from other forms of physical neglect. We see this in collections where materials are catalogued and available, but for which, due to a lack of funding, deterioration continues apace. This is, of course, only a portion of the problem, for in many public and private institutions and many private dwellings there exist materials yet to be collected—or sadly, never to be collected—that continue to deteriorate while

housed in horrendous physical conditions. These collections will perhaps be lost to us before they are ever found.

Much of the historical materials yet to be collected represent under-documented communities of the Commonwealth. We have a reasonably good record of collecting materials from the leading families and institutions of our state. However, we know we have lost the records of a good number of people and communities—especially those records that document everyday lives. For example, few records exist to document Native American life, both before and after the arrival of Europeans. What records do exist are often representations of Native Americans as filtered through the eyes of those who came to dominate the land. We have not been vigilant in documenting the lives of those groups who were enslaved, who were held back by race or religion, or who arrived after the first waves of immigration. We only catch glimpses of them in our records during times of strife and war. We can learn of the glories of the 54th Regiment and the men who served, but we know little of the personal lives of Private William Netson, Private Abraham Brown, or Lieutenant Frank Welch. We know little of the lives of women such as Elizabeth Freeman of

Sheffield and Stockbridge, the first slave to be freed in Massachusetts as a result of the Bill of Rights to the 1780 State Constitution. We have yet to collect in any serious way the records of yesterday's immigrants from Italy, Ireland, Portugal and China. As the community responsible for collecting and caring for yesterday's and tomorrow's historical records, we cannot make the same mistakes with today's immigrants from Cambodia, Vietnam, Haiti, or Ethiopia. Good projects are underway to document under-documented communities in the state, but these projects are few and far between. It is simply not enough.

Major gaps also exist in the record of our commercial past. Much of the detail of the growth of industries both large and small is known only at a superficial level. The Commonwealth's role in the international business community has never been in doubt, but no grand effort has been made to build historical collections outside of Boston and across the state. We have lost much by not advising businesses about the importance of their records to our history. An undertaking such as the Boston Business Heritage Project is an example of those projects making a difference, particularly to the preservation of the built-environment. But, documenting business history cannot be limited to the eastern part of the state and must include a focus on historical records in addition to buildings. As interested as we are today in the history of Waltham Watch, Shreve, Crump, and Low, or the work at the Lowell mills, tomorrow's historical community is just as likely to be interested in Wang, Crane Paper, Filene's Basement, or Legal Seafoods.

What are our other considerations? Gaps exist in our records of nature and of the environment. We have a good record of one of the state's major areas of strength—education—but this record is spotty, with areas such as vocational education and training and records at the primary and secondary school levels most lacking in comprehensiveness and accessibility. Many of the school records that have been lost are public records. It is in the area of local, public record-keeping that our track record, as a historical record community, is the most shameful, despite pockets of fine work. While goodwill and good intentions exist in many communities from Boston to Amherst, public records are deteriorating and remain inaccessible. Funds to care for these records properly are, in many cases, non-existent and those charged with the responsibility of caring for these records are often unable to cope with the magnitude of the problem.



Indian archer weathervane by Shem Drowne, ca. 1917. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

A host of additional gaps in our documentary record exist. We have some collections devoted to different aspects of the arts, with fine collections of major symphonies and fine arts museums. There is a wide array of material available, ranging from sheet music and records of major theaters. But, we have yet to assess how well we are collecting at the community level and to determine how accessible all of these materials that we do have are to those who want to use them. It has often been the case that important events pass quickly, making them difficult to document. Ephemeral events, such as the circus coming to town, the opening of a new jazz club, or simply hanging out on the street corner form an important part of our lives. Recreational activities, from ice skating to swimming, from hockey to cricket, when documented, tell a lot about who we are. How we care for the poor in our cities and in rural areas, how we have worshiped, what we build, and what we tear down—all of this—unfortunately, is not adequately documented in our repositories. And the key word here is adequately. Obviously we cannot document every aspect of our lives, nor would we want to, but we must make sure that what we collect is, at the very least, representative. Once collected, we must make sure that materials are accessible. Lamentably, due to a lack of funding, much of what we do have sits in an unprocessed and uncatalogued state.

The issues of preservation and documentation I have mentioned thus far have dealt, for the most part, with the records we can see. But what are the concerns we should have for new types of records being created? In fact, these so-called “new” record formats have been around for the past twenty to thirty years. We have done a fairly good job at making sure that our news and our newspapers are collected, preserved, and made available, but what of today’s other news formats? Only one or two organizations in the state dealing with television and radio broadcasts are caring for their records in an ongoing records program. What of this record do we want to encourage to be protected? Many of us get our daily news from the airwaves, but will this record be there for the future? Will we be able to hear the voice of Johnny Most? Or the programming of a Robert J.? Or a Charles Laquidara? ...Or even a Howie? For those few who are trying to preserve a part of this record, it is enormously difficult to deal with the technological limitations and costs associated with such an endeavor.

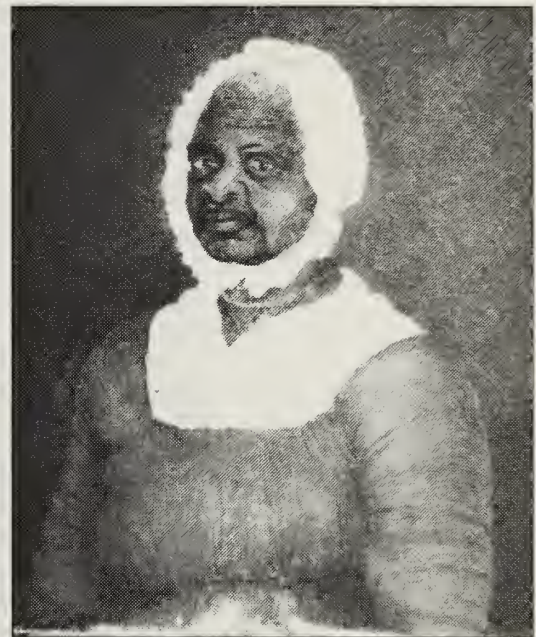
Perhaps the greatest challenge to the historical record in Massachusetts is that of electronic

records. Whether they are in a public setting, in our institutions, or in our homes, records in electronic format pose the greatest risk for loss. Without proper storage conditions, we lose information. Without adequate documentation of records systems, we lose the context for understanding these records. Without playing a visible role in the world of record creators, when decisions are made about record systems, within an instant our records will be gone. The days are passing when we could count on receiving records either through the benefit of the savvy of an office worker, the helpfulness of a janitor, or a house with a big attic. Unless we come together as a community to discuss and learn about today’s records, those being created in a new environment, there will be no record of our time to assess in the future.

A recent survey conducted by the State Historical Records Advisory Board of historical records repositories in Massachusetts revealed that most are underfunded, lack sufficient professional staff and adequate storage space, and are not actively collecting records in underdocumented areas. Without the resources needed to care for, provide access to, and collect historical records, repositories cannot preserve a representative record. Should the community fail in its mission, we will preserve only a damaged heritage, an inaccurate identity, and an obscured vision of where we have been and how we arrived at the present.

While those of us in the historical records community feel passionately about these issues, we have failed to adequately address and promote our work and concerns. Our interest in records cannot be seen to be quaint or antiquarian. We must make sure that the message gets out that historical records have real value. As we all know,

- Many records, but particularly public records, protect our rights, define government’s responsibilities, and provide evidence in courts of law. Deeds and wills determine our right to inherit and own



Painting of Elizabeth Freeman, the first slave freed in Massachusetts as a result of the Bill of Rights of the 1780 State Constitution. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

2D IRISH REGIMENT

PAUGH & BALLADON

Of Massachusetts IRISH VOLUNTEERS
By Order of GOVERNOR ANDREW.

HEAD QUARTERS AT MARBLE HALL
HOWARD STREET, NEAR THE HOWARD ATHENAEUM, BOSTON

COL. T. S. MURPHY,

DR. DONOHUE, - - DR. W. M. WALSH

Civil War era broadsides recruiting Irish and African American men into the 2nd and 54th regiments. Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston.

TO COLORED MEN.

54th

REGIMENT!

MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEERS.

AFRICAN DESCENT!

\$100 BOUNTY!

PAY, \$13 A MONTH!

STATE AID TO FAMILIES.

RECRUITING OFFICE.
Cor. Cambridge & North Russell Sts., Boston.
Lieut. J. W. M. APPERTON, Recruiting Officer.

- property. Birth and employment records determine our eligibility for social benefits and qualification for employment.
- Historical records can help to increase profits. Some of our businesses have seen the value of affirming their role in a community, celebrating an anniversary, or even promoting products that fill our archives!
 - Historical materials serve the general public, allowing everyone to trace his or her family history, to benefit from the restoration of historic buildings, or to learn from a documentary film.
 - Historical materials help students better understand the history of their communities, to better understand history and how it is written. Historical records are the materials necessary to sustain historical research.
 - Historical records provide administrative continuity. Whether it be in the govern-

ment or in many of our private in situations, historical materials can be, in fact are, relied upon to understand and trace the origins of policy and programs and to help construct policy that is consistent with the past and works for the present and future.¹

Historical records do matter to society. Those of us here today recognize this. It is now our job to get this word out. After all, Starbucks figured out what is important to us! We are faced with an enormous set of challenges. But we should not see this as too daunting a task. This is Massachusetts, a state that undertook one of the largest construction jobs of all time, and, as I am sure you noticed on your way here today, is doing so again. Let's undertake our own *Big Dig*, but this time in the historical records community. Let's meet often and figure out ways to advocate for our concerns—together.

¹For further details see the brochure, "Who is the 'I' in Archives?" published by the Society of American Archivists (Chicago: SAA, 1986)

Documentation

Cynthia Robinson, Bay State Historical League

Before talking about collaboration I want to underscore some very important points made earlier by Jill and Megan. The first is that you cannot collaborate without a good plan and articulated goals. And, if you aren't already, your organization needs to become a proactive documenter. You need to take the time to create a documentation or collection plan. Now, that may sound elementary to many of you, but in reality a good many organizations are passive collectors—they only collect what is given to them. This will not be a service to future generations. Too much of our history is underdocumented, as we heard earlier. And, as we also heard, evidence matters. Just think of what tends to exist in our collections today. Our predecessors did a far better job of collecting Colonial history than more recent events or events in their own lifetime, even though there were far fewer people in the colonial period — only 370,000 people in 1790 versus the nearly 3 million people in 1900, and the 5 million in 1960. As you can see, we tend to collect from a disproportionate percentage of our population. Likewise our predecessors were selective in what they documented. For example, we have done a much better job of documenting the Shakers—although there were only a few thousand Shakers in the mid-19th century, versus the tens of thousands of French Canadians, and Irish at the same time. If you think about that legacy, you need to think about the legacy we will leave for future generations, and that means creating a collecting plan.

The important thing to remember is that no single organization can document and preserve everything: so you have work with local and regional organizations to coordinate who collects what. You have to develop some specialties. If you want to document popular culture, make sure that the library or the archive in the next town isn't doing the same thing. Talk with your neighbors, talk with other organizations in your own community so you can stake out specialties.

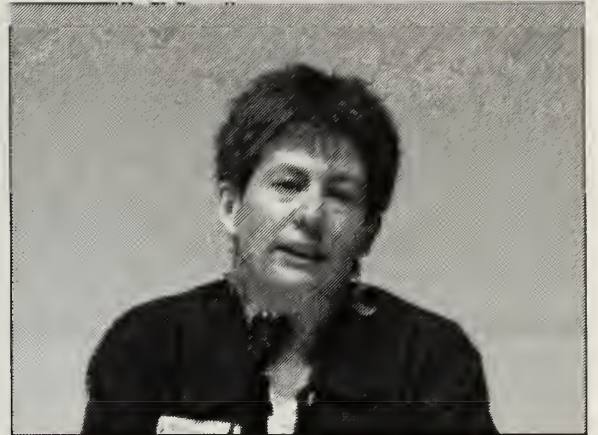
Then next thing you need to do is to identify the audience or users you intend to serve, and build them into every step of your planning and your implementation. The days of the "open your doors and they will come" mode of operation is long gone. If you intend to serve the public—whether you work in a museum, historical society, library or archive—you had better know who uses your facilities and why they come. Then,

collaborate with your users and audiences in various documentation projects.

So, why is it important to collaborate? So that you're not duplicating what you're neighbors are doing, as I said before. Because it extends your expertise and your workforce. Many small organizations in this state, even big ones, are hurting for both. And finally, because the more people who know and care about your institution, the more people who are involved in projects, the more appreciated your institution will become and the bigger you'll build your own supporting constituency.

What do I mean by community collaborators? Any documentation project that you design needs to have your audience built in from the beginning. This means once you've identified the topic that you're going to collect, you need to find partners who will help you with collecting it. For instance, if you want to collect the business history of your community or your region, talk to the chamber of commerce. If on the other hand you are interested in documenting the landscape and environmental history of your community, talk to town planning departments, conservation commissions, developers. If you want to document demographic changes in your community, talk to social clubs, to church groups, to youth groups. Some of the best community documentation projects have been done by classes. Students, with able and guiding teachers, can become your workforce and conduct multi-year projects with each new class that move your project along far more rapidly than if you tried to hire staff or do it by yourself.

Effective collaboration projects need to be organized in phases, each with a beginning, an end, and goals. I like to think of projects in three phases. *Phase I* of the project would consist of gathering information and learning about the topic you intend to collect in a way that involves community. Do this by inviting scholars to give



Cynthia Robinson

lectures, conducting public forums with panels of community representatives, organizing a high-school research essay contest, or giving volunteers small research projects on specific topics. Work your way toward identifying the project.

Phase II would consist of collecting and documenting the topic in a way that involves community. Convene an advisory committee to help you create a set of working guidelines for what to collect, and to help you make contacts. Solicit volunteers, such as people who came to your programs in Phase I, to do the documentation and cataloging of new collection items.

Phase III would consist of then sharing the information you've gathered with the community. It doesn't need to be in its final form, you don't have to have collected everything on the topic, or know everything about the topic. But, make the point of giving back to the community what you've gathered from them in a timely way that's not too far from the beginning of your project. Think about doing lectures, exhibits, publications, or walking tours. Get someone to write newspaper articles about your project. Use the volunteers that you convened in Phase II to do some of this outreach for you.

The benefit of doing a three-phased project like this is that it creates more opportunities, and opportunities for getting funding. For instance, once you've made public your documentation on businesses and industries, for example, you might find that new businesses and industries want to be part of the project as well, and might be willing to contribute to money or resources that will help you complete the project.

The final thing to remember is that many projects fail because of lack of institutional commitment.

Probably everyone in this room has had the experience of becoming involved in a great project, then finding that you're the sole person in your institution who works on it. As the project gets bigger, you get more and more overwhelmed by the volume of work and the variety of tasks there are to accomplish. One of the things that you can do to avoid this problem is from the very beginning make sure that you have institutional support, and that your project is built into the goals and missions of the institution. This ensures that the directors, board of directors and other staff members are involved in some way. You can't move forward very fast unless you have many people supporting your project. Try to create projects that do involve all or most of the staff and volunteers of your organization. This is especially important for very small all volunteer organizations. Community projects are incredibly time-consuming. Any time you collaborate with other organizations or other groups, you need to add in extra time, because talking takes time, convincing people takes time, and finding common goals takes time. Make sure you build in extra time, and make sure that you build in support of colleagues in your own institution, and that the project that you develop meets a number of goals of that institution. If you work in a historical society and you do public programming and manage collections, make sure that your project meets both goals of doing public programming and building collections.

Finally, don't forget that good projects act as catalysts for other projects. Your collaborative documentation project will spawn a host of other activities, both at your own institution and others. Take advantage of this and don't lose your momentum once you've gotten going.

Preservation

Linda Seidman, Hampshire County Historical Records Advisory Board

As we know, we who are gathered here because we cherish the historical record, there's always a story behind how things happen. This is the story of the development of a collaborative group known originally as the Hampshire County Records Preservation Advisory Board. In 1994, the oldest records of Hampshire County, established in 1662, lay deteriorating in untended rooms, corridors, and storage areas of the county courthouse. They were, nonetheless, available to the public; people could handle and photocopy them as they wished. This was understood to be the meaning of making them publicly accessible. Their condition was a matter of concern to Carol Carmichael, the woman in whose care they were, but she had trouble getting the county commissioners to place any priority on approving her taking action. She bided her time, keeping her eyes open for an opportunity to garner support.

Meanwhile, the newly hired Hampshire County administrator, Penny Geis, prowling after hours in the courthouse to see what she was responsible for, was struck by the historic value of the records she saw there, and the rich information they conveyed, and developed a deep interest in them. How could she not, coming upon the record, for example, ordering a woman to be flogged on her bare skin "for wearing silk in these troubled times"?

One day, Carol, the records keeper who now knew she had an ally, arrived in Penny Geis' office with a handful of paper crumbs with words on them, fragments of a record book someone had been photocopying. She asked Penny to come with her to the copy machine, where crumbs lay all over the floor. This was the defining moment—it became clear to them both that the history of the county was being lost among those crumbs on the floor. Their immediate reaction was to disallow photocopying. The commissioners insisted, however, the public must have access. Penny placed a call to Al Whitaker, then the State Archivist, who said, "Yes, your first responsibility is to make the records publicly accessible. This means you must preserve them, because if they don't exist, no one will have access to them."

With this concept in mind, and bearing an envelope full of the record books confetti, Carol was able to convince the county commissioners that action was needed. She, Penny Geis, and Barbara Fell-Johnson, the county law librarian, began making calls seeking proper storage facilities for

the records and publicizing the critical nature of the situation. They invited the State Archivist and Kathryn Hammond Baker, then Assistant Archivist for Records Management and Acquisitions, to examine the records and advise about how to proceed. They discovered

that many of the most fragile record books had actually been microfilmed years earlier by the Mormons, and sought funds to purchase a reader/printer, which they obtained. They developed mailing lists of citizens, organizations, and institutions that might have an interest in preserving the records, and issued invitations to meetings and brainstorming sessions. Meanwhile, a Smith College student, working in the commissioners' office, took an interest in the records, and volunteered to write a grant proposal to Northeast Documents Conservation Center for a subsidized preservation planning survey. The grant was successful. The survey was conducted by Mildred O'Connell, a preservation consultant to NEDCC.

Drawing upon the responses of people in records-related positions who had expressed interest in the fate of the county records, the staff compiled a list of potential appointees to a Hampshire County Historical Records Preservation Advisory Board. Together these appointees would have the breadth of viewpoint, experience and expertise to develop a plan for moving forward.

The composition of the Board has remained fairly stable since its inception. The active Board presently consists of an historian, an engineer, a husband and wife team of surveyors, a county law librarian, two registers of deeds who alternate attendance, a retired academic librarian, an archivist, a longtime member of a small town historical society (who is a real estate agent), an enthusiastic county commissioner, and two nationally recognized book conservators who give the gift of their amazing skills, their precious time, and their resources. There are a few additional inactive members who lend support when called upon.



Linda Seidman

So, that's the story of the establishment of the Advisory Board. What we have gone on to do since our first official meeting in May, 1995, has been profoundly affected by two events: the sudden, unexpected death last year of Carol Carmichael, whose vision the Board had been and who was its driving, organizing force; and the abolition of county governments in the Commonwealth, with the resulting uncertainties that decision generated, despite the fact that Hampshire County has submitted legislation to restructure itself into a continuing Council of Governments.

Since its inception, the sequence of the Board's activities has been:

- receive Mildred O'Connell's preservation planning survey report, which has informed how we've thought about everything else
- tour the courthouse and Registry of Deeds, to see the materials and how they are presently stored and used
- make ourselves familiar with the public records laws of the Commonwealth
- develop a mission statement
- send a member of the Board and superintendent of the courthouse building and ground to a workshop on conservation environments for museums and libraries
- seek, through the Hampshire County Law Librarian, the advice of Gregor Trinkaus-Randall, preservationist for the Board of Library Commissioners, regarding environmental issues in the law library and related space in the courthouse and the taking of relevant readings; install data loggers in the library and related areas for six months; receive a report analyzing the results
- explore records practices in other counties
- take a field trip to the National Archives facility in Pittsfield
- explore the nature of grants and granting agencies interested in preservation projects
- make contacts pertaining to possibilities for cooperation in developing a regional storage facility in a planned redevelopment of the vacant Northampton state hospital site or in an expanded Historical Society of Northampton building; and explore legislators' interest in supporting the development of such a repository
- prepare ourselves, through workshops offered by our conservator members, for participating in and supervising volunteers in the preservation work of relaxing paper documents, numbering, foldering, and boxing docket documents, and encapsulating maps
- and begin that work

Our most effective project has probably been the well-publicized and handsomely produced so-called "Historic Event" that we co-sponsored with the county commissioners. Along with the press, we invited members of historical societies and commissions, surveyors, engineers, lawyers, title searchers, historians, real estate agents, archivists, librarians, town officers, college presidents, our legislative delegation and anyone we could think of who might already care. Our purpose was to raise awareness of the condition of the records, to renew people's interest in and concern for them, to solicit financial and volunteer support, and to publicize our work. We prepared an exhibit for the occasion of some of the records, as well as some examples of document and map preservation in progress. Our Chair, David Bourbeau, along with Peter Geraty, the book conservators, gave a slide presentation about preservation work, in particular some that David had done on 18th century records in a neighboring town. He also prepared the exhibit labels and the invitation, which gave the event considerable panache. One of the county commissioners, Eileen Stewart, who had developed tremendous enthusiasm for preserving the records, emceed the event. There were about fifty-five attendees. Although we had some difficulty working out how to set things up so funds could be legally donated that evening for the preservation work, people did sign up to become volunteers for doing the nitty gritty work. In what is probably the greatest stretch we've made in collaborating with unexpected partners, the jail provided refreshments. It is among the volunteers that we can hope to broaden the diversity of participants, some of whom may eventually wish to join the Board.

Presently, our short term goals are: to establish constant, desirable environmental conditions for the records in their present locations; to house them appropriately; to develop a program for volunteer workers to relax, number, and folder docket documents; to repair the records in need of such work; to complete intellectual control over the records, which will enhance accessibility; and to continue to raise public awareness of the records and the need to preserve them.

Our long term goal is: to survey the records in the county's numerous towns; to develop together with the towns an appropriate county-wide facility to store those records not actively needed by the town officers, according to a records management plan; to provide professional arrangement, description and preservation of the records; and to provide supervised access and use.

We have made progress, but it has been slow going. Our smartest moves have probably been consulting with the remarkable array of experts readily available in Massachusetts, and getting their concrete recommendations; generating favorable publicity that keeps public interest alive; and continuing to find ways to move forward. I would say our greatest difficulty has been moving forward in a straight line. This is due, in part, to the circumstances mentioned earlier that created staffing vacuums and unreliability of context and support. It is also true that, this being a community-based organization, we practice participatory decision-making, which doesn't always

yield efficiency and singularity of vision. But this interesting collaborative group has hung together surprisingly well. I think it's because each member, from their own realm of experience, knows and values the kind of information they have undertaken to keep available for future generations, knowing, too, that if they don't do it no one will. We have seen what each brings from his or her knowledge that informs the project at hand, we have grown in our respect for those contributions, and we have truly enjoyed working together. Not all populations of the county are represented in this group—given the breadth of possibilities, it is actually quite limited. But I see it as an example of a local organization that publicly promotes the value of the historic record, sensitivity to which future documentation efforts can exploit in seeking to complete the record. And in so doing, they will foster yet other collaborations. It is, as you all know, a many-faceted, complex, lengthy process. And worth it.

Funding

Ellen Rothman, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities

I'm going to speak in a more informal way than Linda and Cindy because, coming last, much of what I had planned to say has been said. Let me say by way of introduction that I have been a user of records. In an earlier incarnation, I was an historical researcher. I went around to the finest institutions, like the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and others, the collection that is so superbly preserved that you're not sure if you should even breathe on the documents. I also saw the other extreme. When people heard what I was working on, someone would say, "Oh my mother has this box of letters—" So, on some rainy Sunday afternoon I'd go out to a house in Milton and a woman would take me up to the attic guest room and pull out these fantastic 19th century letters, and I'd break out into a cold sweat. As a user I've seen the full gamut.

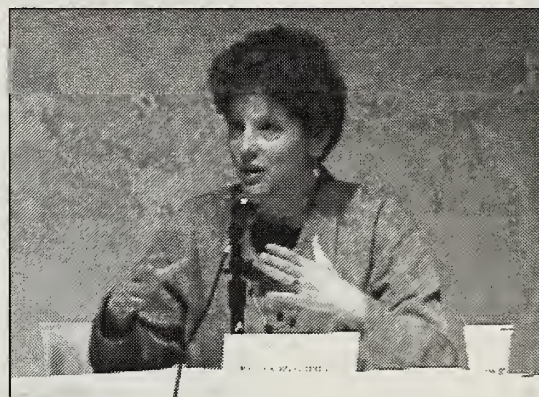
I also worked for a state agency for six and a half years and had hair-raising experiences seeing how public records are often treated, and mistreated, with the best of intentions by people who just have no sense of the importance of records.

Now I am in the role of a funder of programs like this one and others that I hope will come out of it. I think that Bill's words in his introduction, describing me as an observer is apt. Because the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities is a small

organization with a small budget, we observe a lot more than we can fund. If you're hoping that I'm going to tell you where to get the money I won't be insulted if you get up and leave now because, alas, that's not what I am going to do.

There are certain words that funders, and therefore fundraisers and proposal writers like to use these days. A big one I'd like to dispatch with at the outset is the Millennium. I am not going to talk about the Millennium. There's a serious case of Millennial Overkill already and it's only the summer of 1998. If your project is simply taking place between now and 2001, don't automatically call it a millennium project when you approach a funder. It doesn't help. If it is a millennial project, wonderful. We in fact have a Millennial initiative. But the work that we are doing needed to be done ten years ago, it will need to be done ten years from now, and the Millennium can take care of itself.

Another word that appears in a lot in the proposals we read, and has more bearing on what we're talking about today, is the Internet. This is not



Ellen Rothman

my subject but we need to keep in mind the extent to which it affects historical records. It makes so many things simpler that we tend to forget that it also creates new problems. I can't think of the last proposal we received that didn't mention a web site. Sometimes that's appropriate, and necessary, but it requires careful planning. You can't just do it—and you certainly can't just SAY you're going to do it.

There are two other funding “buzzwords” that I am going to talk about for a few minutes, because they lie at the heart of this symposium: “grassroots” and “collaboration.” How many of you think of yourselves as representing “grassroots” organizations? How many of you know of grassroots organizations that you might enlist or assist in the effort to preserve historical records and make them more accessible? This part of the forum is called “Collaborating in a Diverse Community,” but how diverse is the group in this room? By some measurements it's very diverse indeed, and by others it's not diverse at all. We're not doing a very good job and we need to keep that in mind.

Collaboration, whether it's within, across, or hopefully outside the communities in this room, is much more than a way to appeal to funders. It does increase the impact, the quality, the effectiveness of what you can do, which is why funders like it. One concrete, self-evident reason for collaboration is that almost all funders, certainly the Mass Foundation, require a match in cash and in kind. And that's for a good reason. It shows ownership. When we get a proposal, even a wonderful proposal, the first thing I always say is, “Who else in the community cares about this?” Sometimes the project is a way to get other people in the community to care about it.

We need to think very creatively about collaboration. You are sitting surrounded by potential partners—and this is a good place to start—but think of all the categories of record users/creators who are not in this room. How many of you represent religious organizations? How many of you belong to religious organizations? How many of you represent voluntary associations? How many belong to voluntary associations? You get the idea. We don't need to stop there. What about visual and performing artists, especially if you want to give collaboration a different dimension and create exciting public programming.

Let me give you a few examples of programs that approached preservation and access in a collaborative, community-based way.

One is the Provincetown Oral History Project, just coming to a close, that focused on the recent history of Provincetown. It was built around oral history, but it also collected a lot of other material that people thought was unimportant because it had to do with the 1930s, or 40s, or 50s, or yesterday.

The Foundation has been funding a project in East Boston that involves an innovative collaboration between a neighborhood and the Boston Natural Areas Fund, an organization whose primary mission is the protection and use of open space. It also involves scholars, and planners from the Big Dig and the MBTA who are going to reconfigure a large chunk of the open space in East Boston. It's a very unusual collaboration and so far it's proved to be very successful.

A third one is in Somerville. The Somerville Arts Council, with a combination of funding from the Foundation and the Cultural Council, is doing a project which will result in an exhibit and a publication that focuses on gardens as an expression of personal and community history. Participants include photographers, writers, historians, and the gardeners themselves.

It happened that the Foundation funded all three of those, but there are other examples. The last one I want to mention is “Women Whose Lives Span the Centuries: Reflections” an exhibit that will be on view at Temple Israel in Boston until October. Sponsored by the Jewish Women's Archive, it is based on the lives of 32 women over the age of 80 in the Temple Israel Congregation. The work was done almost entirely by volunteers. Fortunately those volunteers included scholars and other people with skills, but the most important ingredient in the project was the older women themselves. That was not funded by us, but I wish it had been. I would have been proud to see our name connected to it.

These kinds of community-based partnerships represent the direction I think we need to go in.

I hope it won't sound contradictory if I urge you to think big but start small, start with projects that you can do successfully and then build on. Articulate specific goals and construct a context for those goals. You need the center of the picture to be in focus; at the beginning the rest of the picture doesn't need to be as sharp, but it needs to be in the frame.

So, how to get the money? Everything doesn't cost money, at least not a lot of money. Much of what needs to be done - the meeting the planning - can be done by volunteers. It is already being done

by volunteers. I hate to sound like Colin Powell but the single most important thing those of us in this room could do is to recruit one other person to work on this.

There are several sources of funding, some who've co-sponsored this event. Secretary Galvin referred to his office's efforts to get federal funding for regrant programs. The Massachusetts Cultural Council offers operating support to many organizations that do this kind of work. The Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners are also here today with information.

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities funding is available on a project basis only; we fund projects that are community based, that involve humanities scholars, and that have out of school adults as the primary audience. For example, we funded this symposium with a \$2,500 "mini-grant." We also offer a program that gives small research inventory grants jointly with the Bay State Historical League. Our guidelines can be downloaded from our web page, www.mfh.org. These are small amounts of money, but since my motto is "think big, start small," it's enough.

Ultimately, much of the funding for the kind of work we're talking about today will have to be local in the form of public appropriations or private donations. Everyone in this room is already in the "choir." It's easy for us to "preach" to you. But think about what it would take to persuade your town meeting, or a group of your neighbors, to support this work. The hardest nut to crack is the one that's wide open in this room, and that is to get people to care, for all the reasons that Jill Lepore started the morning out with so wonderfully. Somehow we need to communicate the need to people out in the community so that they're moved to act. If the Ford Foundation came in and said we're going to give you \$2,000,000 for preservation of historic records in Massachusetts, then we could just go home and do the work. It's not going to happen that way. It's going to happen in small pieces, funded by the foundation, the Cultural Council, local businesses, town budgets. It's going to happen when you persuade your neighbors to take the problem seriously and do something about it. There is no magic bullet, but the more community support you can show the more likely you are to get funding. "Think globally but act locally" would make a good motto for the historic records community

Summary of Audience Comments

Dr. William Fowler, Jr., moderator

We've heard from our political leader, the Secretary of the Commonwealth, earlier today. We've heard from a distinguished historian, Jill Lepore, and a distinguished archivist, Megan Sniffin-Marinoff. We've heard from our distinguished panel. Who remains to be heard from? Who is the quietest in this room? In fact, who is the quietest in this community? The answer is you and I. We now welcome you to speak up, to let us know what's on your mind.

Georgette Swan

I am working on a genealogical library collection. The Mormons came and copied all the records, and gave us a microfiche copy of all the records. More people should use this service because it provides access without damaging the records.

Marilyn Richardson

African Americana

I represent an organization that does consulting for museums, historical societies, libraries, etc. A few years ago, I was invited to speak at a regional organization of archivists, and gave a talk called,

"We Wouldn't Have Anything Like That." That's a response many black researchers are greeted with, or were greeted with in the past. I'd like to make a plea that as we build on these initiatives, that we also consider and follow through on cataloging and indexing materials that do pertain to what is a substantial African American presence in all of the New England states, going back to the very earliest days. There's so much material that is not known about simply because it hasn't been indexed or cataloged for access.

Sally Latimer

Naragansett, Rhode Island, Historical Society

I want to thank you for the conference, it's been an inspiration. I'm taking materials back to Rhode Island to the State Archivists, because we feel it's needed there as well.

Will Fitzhugh

Editor, Concord Review

I want to pick up on the issue of duplication. It reminded me of DARPANET in the sixties which

was created so that a researcher wouldn't spend six months on a project and find out someone else had been doing the same work. I'm wondering about the issue of a common web site, which someone else referred to, and the fact that many digital records can no longer be accessed because there is no equipment or software. Is there already a common web site which everyone can post to, and is there a plan for a reliable digital archive to things posted to the site?

Panel members replied with suggestions of using the Massachusetts history listserv or professional associations as a way to share information among institutions.

Joan Krizack

Northeastern University

I wanted to speak briefly about a grant-funded program that will begin this summer at Northeastern University. It is to work with African American, Puerto Rican, Chinese, and Gay and Lesbian communities in Boston to help them preserve their documentation. We were able to get a very large grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission to do this project. One of the stated reasons we were given the grant was that we were in touch with the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board, so we were seen as being part of a larger project. I wanted to point this out because the NHPRC can give out sizable grants and that can be a way to work on a larger scale.

Nancy Richard

Northeastern University and The History Project

I am a member of a grassroots community organization, The History Project, which was started in 1980 to document the Gay and Lesbian community in Boston. Its goals are preservation, research, and public programming. We've been very successful with public programming. We had an exhibit at the Boston Public Library and will soon publish a book based on the exhibit. One thing we weren't successful with until recently was finding a repository interested in working with the community. We are thrilled that Northeastern has made that commitment, and there are benefits for them also. Working in collaboration with a grassroots organization can be valuable

because the organization is trusted and known by the community, can help negotiate between the organization and the community, and can continue to do outreach and public programming together with the larger institution.

Betsy Hamilla

Westminster Historical Society

I just want to draw attention to the difficulties a small organization can have in trying to provide the newest forms of access to collections. Though the town of Westminster has only 6,000 people, we have many requests for information, and we just bought our first computer. I wish there were an agency or organization in Massachusetts that could provide information about how to choose new and expensive technologies.

Frank Lord

Duxbury Rural Historical Society

I came today as a result of the web. I hadn't heard of the organization about it until I saw a link to it on the web. My question is, why did I have to find out about it on the web? I hope that the next forum will be publicized to grassroots organizations, like local historical societies.

Bill Saltonstall

An ex-politician can never resist an open mike. How many of you have asked your current politicians to visit with your societies? You're looking for money, and they're looking for immortality.

Bill Marcioni

Brighton-Allston Historical Society

I want to make a pitch for doing oral history. It's one way to build support for what we're seeking to do here, to make people feel that they're a part of history, and that the resources they can offer are valuable.

Felix Matos Rodriguez

Northeastern University

With all the planning that is going on, I hope that we think about diversity not only in terms of collections, but also in the professions. I hope that we see more historians, archivists, and curators who are representative of the growing diversity of the state.

Advocacy

Dr. William Fowler, Jr., Massachusetts Historical Society

You've pointed out some of the many problems and issues we face, issues that are not currently being addressed by the larger community. Why? The problem is, I suspect, that we believe. That is why we are here. We are believers. We believe passionately in what we do. We know that it's right, we know that we are trying to do it, therefore everyone else should simply understand and support us. We believe so deeply in this that we believe it is self-evident, and that no one should disagree with us, they should simply support us. Well, they don't. It's not because it's an evil world, it's not because people wish us ill. It's not because we live in an evil world, it's because we live in an uninformed world.

Our task is to inform that world. They must learn and we must teach. This meeting is not a sunburst, this isn't a single moment. This isn't a time for us to feel good now, then go home and forget. This meeting is part of a plan. The Historical Records Advisory Board is deeply involved in strategic planning. This year Boston, next year someplace west of Worcester. I know to some of you it is a frightening thought. But as we now have evidence, there are good things going on out there beyond Worcester. We need to know about them, and next year we will be meeting, west of Worcester, to hear about those things.

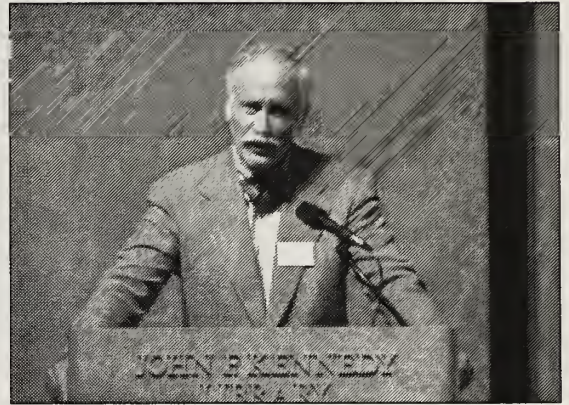
That's fine for next year, 365 days from now. What about now? What can we do, what must we do until we reconvene? There is a plan. In all the preparation for this meeting, a hard working group of volunteers, a working group, has in fact been thinking, meeting, plotting, about what we might do as a community, the kind of community that was mentioned again and again this morning. People coming together with a common interest. (Editor's note: See Appendix B for

the full report of this working group.)

I'd like to suggest to you that we organize a coalition of people in the Commonwealth advocating for the preservation of records. What I urge you to do is think about tomorrow, and how we preserve the spirit of today into tomorrow. We can do

that by forming this organization, an organization that will collaborate to create a focused message about the needs and uses of historical records, increase public awareness of the value and uses of historical records, and advocate for additional resources to ensure the preservation and accessibility of historical records.

How do we organize to do this? What structure do we use? The organization could be a formal, non-profit group, open to individuals or a formal non-profit group open to organizations. We could form an alliance of groups administered by a professional organization, board, or institution. Or, we could form an informal, "virtual" organization linked by the MAhistory listserv, and guided by volunteer "experts." The choice is yours. If you are interested in participating in this type of advocacy organization, contact the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board staff, who will be convening the initial planning meeting. Thank you for coming, and we'll see you next year, somewhere west of Worcester.



Dr. William Fowler, Jr.

Appendix A: Speakers

Megan F. Desnoyers is the Archivist of the John F. Kennedy Library. A resident of Stow, Massachusetts, she began her archival career in 1969 at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, NY, and moved to the John F. Kennedy Library in 1970. For nine years she was also curator of the Ernest Hemingway Collection which is housed at the Kennedy Library. A graduate of Vassar College, she received her Masters in Library Science from Rutgers University. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the archival profession, she was named a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists in 1997. She is a member of the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board.

William M. Fowler, Jr. received his Ph.D. in history at Notre Dame. He has served as an officer of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts, and the Paul Revere Memorial Association, as well as serving as editor of the *New England Quarterly*. A former Northeastern University professor and vice provost, Fowler is the author or editor of eight books, the most recent being *Samuel Adams: Radical Puritan*. He is currently the director of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth, was born in Brighton and educated in Brighton schools. He graduated cum laude from in 1972 from Boston College and received a Juris Doctor from Suffolk University in 1975. He resides in Brighton with his wife Eileen and his daughter Bridget.

Jill Lepore is the author of *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity*. Born in Worcester, Massachusetts, she received a B.A. from Tufts University, an M.A. from the University of Michigan, and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale University in 1995. She has taught at Yale University and the University of California, San Diego, and is currently Assistant Professor of History at Boston University. She has been the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize of the American Studies Association and a Charlotte Newcombe Dissertation Fellowship. In 1994-95 she was an Affiliate at the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University and in 1996-97 she was a Fellow at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University. She lives in Somerville, Massachusetts with her husband.

Cynthia Robinson is the executive director of the Bay State Historical League, a statewide organization for historical organizations within Massachusetts. As an individual consultant, she has worked with organizations such as the Concord Museum and Mount Auburn Cemetery. She is also the author of an award winning curriculum, "Abolition in Lynn," that was produced by the Lynn Historical Society.

Ellen Rothman is the Associate Director of the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, the state-based program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. In 1980 she received her Ph.D. in history at Brandeis University. She is the author of *Hands and Hearts: A History of Courtship in America* and *The Legacies Book*, a history of women and the family in the United States. She has worked in public history for over 25 years. She has been a user of historic records—as a researcher and writer—and a creator of records—as an employee of a state agency and most recently as a funder of programs that make historic records accessible and meaningful to general audiences.

Linda Seidman is the Head of the Special Collections and Archives at the W.E.B. Du bois Library, University of Massachusetts Amherst. She received her Masters of Library Science from University of Rhode Island in 1980. She is a member of the New England Archivists and the Society of American Archivists. She also serves on The Hampshire County Historical Records Advisory Board, the Five Colleges Archives Digital Access Project, and the Regional Repository Guide Editorial Committee of the New England Archivists.

Megan Sniffin-Marino is a member of the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board. She has served as the president of the New England Archivists and on numerous archives advisory boards for organizations such as the City of Boston, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Northeast Document Conservation Center, the WGBH Education Foundation, and the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site. She earned the B.S. degree in Journalism from Boston University, the M.A. in History and a N.Y.S. Certificate in Archives Management from New York University, and is at present pursuing the Ph.D. in History at Boston University. Currently Asst. Professor and Director of Archives Programs at the Simmons College Graduate School of Library and Information Science in Boston, Sniffin-Marino is the author of "In Print, On Air: Working With the Media," in *Advocating Archives*.

Appendix B: The Advocacy Working Group Proposal

Background

Following the open meetings, focus group meetings, and forum planning session of the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board, as part of the Strategic Planning Project, a working group, comprised of individuals representing different interest groups, formed to develop a proposal for an advocacy coalition. The group issued its final proposal, "A Proposal for a Coalition for Historical Records," below, for the May 11th forum, *Advocating Massachusetts History*.

A PROPOSAL FOR A COALITION FOR HISTORICAL RECORDS

At the January planning meeting for the community forum on historical records, to be held on May 11, 1998, a number of people volunteered to form a working group on advocacy. The purpose of the group was to develop some proposals for collaborative advocacy methods and projects. The group believes that by acting together, we can have a greater impact on the preservation, accessibility, and use of historical records, and obtain greater support to achieve our objectives in these areas. The working group posed these questions. What can we do to begin working together as advocates for Massachusetts records and history? How can we organize to do it?

Background: The Problem

All across Massachusetts people study, interpret, and celebrate its rich heritage and the diversity of its current culture. There is a wealth of documentary materials to draw on, both old and new. Unfortunately, caring for this abundance of documentary material has become difficult. In the current environment:

- many of our fellow citizens and neighbors are unaware that archives, libraries, and other repositories hold information that would help them achieve their business and personal objectives
- even when state residents seek out records, often records are inaccessible, or have been damaged, or destroyed before they can be acquired by a repository
- those responsible for material that documents the history of Massachusetts do not have the resources they need to preserve, care for, and help others use the material: our heritage is at risk

Proposed Goals and Activities

1. Collaborate to create a focused message about the needs of the historical records community to be used in advocacy efforts.

Objectives:

- Identify common priorities and positions on issues relating to the care and use of historical records and documentary material
- Establish consensus on other documentation, preservation, and access priorities statewide

Activities:

- Form a working group drawn from representatives of organizations within historical records community
- Develop a ongoing method to communicate and share information, ideas, and priorities

2. Increase public awareness of the value and uses of archives

Objectives:

- Develop an informed constituency that values historical records
- Promote optimum use of historical records
- Increase support for records from record creators

Activities:

- Promote Archives week activities in repositories and communities statewide
- Support use of primary resources in the study of Massachusetts history in K-12 classrooms, making use of statewide efforts to exploit information technology for education
- Create a public service announcement to be shown on cable television and by outreach programs operated by organizations and repositories
- Establish and publicize a speakers bureau of historian-and-archivist teams that can address audiences on the issues of historical records uses, value, and methods
- Designate and publicize a "Massachusetts History" spokesperson who can provide

the media with comment on historical records issues and serve as a referral source to appropriate library, archives and history professionals as needed

- Obtain support for workshops on use of primary sources as a part of the teacher recertification program
3. Advocate for additional resources to ensure the preservation and accessibility of historical records.

Objectives:

- Increase impact of advocacy efforts
- Make more efficient the efforts of individuals and organizations across the historical records community

Activities:

- Monitor issues
- Inform key legislators on position of historical records community on specific and general issues
- Establish mechanisms for letter-writing campaigns to support fast action on critical legislation
- Develop a web site to inform the historical records community, public, and legislators about issues, opportunities, and

pending and current legislation

- Ensure that the historical records community has the opportunity to participate in Humanities Day on the Hill

Proposed organization

To some extent, collaborating teams will come together naturally, based on their strengths, weaknesses, and interests, to accomplish some of the activities suggested above. The working group also considered some organizational structures that may be advantageous. For example, a Coalition for Historical Records could take the form of:

- a formal, non-profit organization open to individuals
- a formal, non-profit organization whose membership is limited to representatives of organizations having an interest in historical records issues
- an alliance of groups administered by a professional organization, board, or institution willing to sponsor an address, meeting place, and membership database
- an informal "virtual" organization linked by the MAhistory listserv, and guided by volunteer "experts" (individuals and/or organizations) who step forward to lead advocacy efforts in their areas of greatest strength

Appendix C: Actions and Projects

In order to preserve an accurate record of the history and development of Massachusetts, you need to get involved. There are many things you can do, as an individual or within a collaborative group, to increase awareness of the value of historical records, and the preservation of and access to these records. The following actions are steps you can take as an individual to support the preservation and accessibility of historical records:

- become an advocate for historical records at work, at town meetings, and in the legislature
- enlist or assist grassroots organizations in the effort to preserve their records
- join or volunteer at your local historical society, public library, or other repository
- communicate the importance of the preservation of historical records to others in your community
- recruit others to work on these issues

You can also get involved in a collaborative effort. Many collaborative projects are in process throughout Massachusetts. Contact your professional organization or one of the forum co-sponsors for more information about ongoing projects in your area. In addition, a number of statewide projects are being implemented as part of the Strategic Planning Project of the Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board. Project staff and members of the historical records community have carried out a number of demonstration projects that have resulted in tools and information resources to help those that use, care for, and create historical records. Anyone can be involved in these ongoing demonstration projects.

- MAhistory listserv: A listserv was created in March 1998 to facilitate discussion and the exchange of information about historical records in Massachusetts. You are welcome to join the listserv.
- A Community Heritage: Development of a curriculum to support historical records in local repositories supported by MHRAB, Massachusetts Historical Commission, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and the Massachusetts Regional Library Systems. This proposal was submitted to the Massachusetts Foun-

dation for the Humanities for sponsorship and will be hosted by the Regional Libraries and MBLC. If awarded, a workshop "A Community Heritage" will be carried out twice in 24 months in each of the Library Regions.

- Forum: Planning and holding the 2nd Annual Forum on Historical Records. Although the date and time are yet to be established, we are planning on holding the first planning session for prospective co-sponsors and interested persons in November, 1998. If you would like to help out by being part of the Local Arrangements Committee, Program Committee, or just have some good ideas, please contact the MHRAB.
- Web-site: Development and revision of MHRAB web-site. The MHRAB web-site is home to many publications and a variety of resources, including:
 - MHRAB Strategic Planning Project, including drafts of the Strategic Plan;
 - Massachusetts Historical Records Survey, including submission forms;
 - Guides to funding, preservation, electronic records, organizations and associations, documentation, public records laws and freedom of information, and NUCMC.
 - Links and instructions for applicants to National Historical Publications and Records Commission grant program.
 - Forthcoming results of working groups on electronic records preservation, business and local government records.
- Publications: Many of the information found on the MHRAB web-page is available in print form, including:
 - How to Find Funding in Massachusetts;
 - Preservation Basics;
 - Massachusetts History Listserv;

- Planning for Progress;
- Documentation Packet: including basic information, technical bibliography, and recommendations.

There is a clear need for long-term funding for the preservation and access of historical records in Massachusetts. To help build the support for a permanent source of funding the MHRAB submitted a regrant to the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, June 1998, requesting the establishment of a two year grants program for historical records in Massachusetts. William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth supports this initiative with the hiring of a field archivist to manage the grants program. The awards will be announced in Fall 1998. If you are interested in participating in this grant program, please contact the MHRAB come Fall 1998. Information on this grant program will be

available on the MHRAB web-site and posted on the MAhistory listserv.

If you would like to get involved with any of the activities mentioned in this publication, including the demonstration projects, the advocacy group, and the forum, please contact us:

Project Archivist
 Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board
 Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point
 220 Morrissey Blvd.
 Boston, MA 02125
 (617)727-2816 x 252
 Fax: (617)288-8429

Areddin@sec.state.ma.us

And visit our web-site at <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcaac/aacintro.htm>

We value and appreciate your support, your ideas, your interest, and your participation in this forum.

Appendix D: Forum Sponsors Contact Information

Links to these web-sites and information on those cosponsors without web-sites can be found at <http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcaac/aacintro.htm>.

American Association for State and Local History
530 Church Street, Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219-2325
615-255-2971
<http://www.aaslh.org>

Association of College and Research Libraries
New England Chapter
University of New Hampshire
18 Library Way
Durham, NH 02834
<http://www.ala.org/acrl.htm>

Association of Records Management Administrators
ARMA, Boston Chapter, Inc.
Paul Singleton, Records Manager
BINGHAM DANA LLP
150 Federal Street
Boston, MA 02110-1726
<http://www.armaboston.org>

Bay State Historical League
The Vale
85 Lyman Street
Waltham, MA 02154
781-899-3920

Boston Public Library
700 Boylston Street
Copley Square
Boston, MA 02117
617-536-5400
<http://www.bpl.org>

Bostonian Society
Old State House
206 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
617-720-1713
<http://www.bostonhistory.org>

Cape and Islands Historical Association
P.O. Box 2140
Sandwich, MA 02563

Hampshire County Records Preservation
Advisory Board
Hampshire County Courthouse
99 Main Street
Northampton, MA 01060

Healey Library
University of Massachusetts, Boston
Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
617-287-5903
<http://www.lib.umb.edu>

John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library
Columbia Point
Boston, Massachusetts 02125
617-929-4500
Fax: 617-929-4538
<http://www.cs.umb.edu/jfklibrary.htm>

Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
617-727-2816
<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/sec/arc.htm>

Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners
648 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02215
617-267-9400 or 800-952-7403 (in state)
Fax: 617-421-9833
<http://www.mlin.lib.ma.us/mblc.htm>

Massachusetts Committee for the
Preservation of Architectural Records
MASSCopar
P.O. Box 425129
Cambridge, MA 02142-0004
<http://libraries.mit.edu/rvc/mcopar/mcopar.html>

Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies
(MCSS)
108 Pleasant Street
Woburn, MA 01801
617-933-8868

Massachusetts Cultural Council
120 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02116-4600
617-727-3668
800-232-0960 Toll free in Massachusetts
TTY: 617-338-9153
Fax: 617-727-0044

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities
Main Office, South Hadley
One Woodbridge Street
South Hadley, MA 01075
413-536-1385
Fax: 413-534-6918

Boston Office
230 Congress Street
3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110
617-451-9021
Fax: 617-426-5441
<http://www.mfh.org>

Massachusetts Genealogical Council
P.O. Box 5393
Cochituate, MA 01778

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125
617-727-8470
Fax: 617-727-5128
TDD: 1-800-392-6090
<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/sec/mhc.htm>

Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory
Board
MHRAB, Massachusetts Archives at Columbia
Point
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
617-727-2816
<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/sec/arc/arcaac/aacintro.htm>

Massachusetts Historical Society
1154 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02215
617-536-1606
<http://www.masshist.org>

Massachusetts Library Association
707 Turnpike Street
North Andover, MA 01845
508-686-8543
Fax 508-685-4422
<http://www.world.std.com/~masslib.htm>

Massachusetts State Library
State House, Room
Boston, MA 02133
617-727-2590
<http://www.magnet.state.ma.us/lib.htm>

Massachusetts Studies Project
Graduate College of University of Massachu-
setts, Boston
Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
617-287-7654
<http://k12s.phast.umass.edu/~masag/indexma.html>

National Historical Publications and Records
Commission
National Archives Building, Room 106
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408-0001
202-501-5610
Fax: 202-501-5601
E-mail: nhprc@arch1.nara.gov
<http://www.nara.gov/nara/nhprc/nhprc.html>

New England Archivists
c/o Massachusetts Archives
Office of the Secretary of State
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
<http://www.lib.umb.edu/newengarch.html>

The New England Heritage Center
Bentley College
Waltham, MA 02154
781-891-3481
<http://www.bentley.edu/resource/nehc.edu>

New England Historic Genealogical Society
101 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116
617-536-5740
<http://www.nehgs.org>

New England History Teachers Association
(NEHTA)
NEHTA Home Office
Bentley College
Waltham, MA 02254-9984.

New England Museum Association (NEMA)
Boston National Historical Park
Charlestown Navy Yard
Boston, MA 02129
617-242-2283

New England Quarterly
239 Meserve Hall
Northeastern University
Boston, MA 02115
617-373-2734
email: neq@lynx.neu.edu
<http://www.whc.neu.edu/history/NEQ.html>

Simmons College Graduate School of
Library and Information Science
300 The Fenway
Boston, MA 02115
617-521-2000
<http://simmons.edu/graduate/gslis.html>

University Products
P. O. Box 101
517 Main Street
Holyoke, MA 01041
800-628-1912
Fax: 800-532-9281
<http://www.universityproducts.com>

MHRAB

Massachusetts Historical Records Advisory Board
Massachusetts Archives at Columbia Point
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125



Elevated photograph of the Custom
House Tower, ca. 1986.
Photograph by T.C. Fitzgerald